



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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CLEOME LUTEA **YELLOW BEE PLANT**

Yellow Bee Plant is an annual with simple to branched stems that are 10-30 cm high. The leaves are palmately compound with long, 2-6 cm petioles and 3-5 narrowly lance-shaped, 2-6 cm long leaflets. Foliage is glabrous to sparsely hairy with a thin, pale, waxy coating. The yellow flowers are borne on 10-20 mm long, ascending stalks, and are densely clustered in a globular inflorescence that greatly expands as the fruit matures. Each flower is subtended by a green bract; the lowest flowers resemble leaves, while the uppermost are short and narrow. Flowers have a 4-lobed calyx and 4 separate petals that are 5-8 mm long. There are 6 stamens, which are greatly exserted beyond the petals. The pod-like capsules are 15-35 mm long and borne on arching stalks that are as long as the fruit. Flowering in June-July; fruiting in July.

The palmately compound leaves and the bright yellow, 4-parted flowers with strongly exserted stamens distinguish this species from the common *CLEOME SERRULATA* that has pinkish flowers.